From: Rajen J. Shah
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 3:45pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am writing to you with my comments on the proposed settlement between the DOJ and Microsoft on this long-running case.

1) I am very relieved that a settlement has been reached. In particular, I think a lot of time and money was spent on this case by both sides, and it also caused a lot of distraction in the industry. I am happy to see an end where money is used for more productive activities.

2) I am concerned that Microsoft be kept from its earlier rough handed practices. There is no need for such behavior in this industry. I believe that the settlement adheres to the findings of the court and will hold Microsoft accountable for conducting legal business practices.

3) I totally disagree with the "holdout" states stand on increasing the scope of any settlement. What they have proposed smells very much like what Microsoft's competitors have been trying to do to Microsoft - particularly Sun Microsystems, Oracle and AOL. I don't want taxpayer dollars going to fighting on behalf of companies that cannot compete in the marketplace.

4) I am a software engineer and spend a lot of time on building web sites for customers. My platform of choice is Windows (2000). I had spent an untold number of hours, which I consider wasted, trying to make my software work on multiple platforms. In particular, at least 40% of any project is spent making my applications work on both IE and Netscape. Netscape has fallen way behind in terms of features and should be killed. Also, there is no need to have another browser available to the public, especially if it is something that is developed out of the source of IE that the holdout states are proposing. That will confuse the public and will also cause real problems for people like me.

5) Also, proposals to provide software such as Office on multiple platforms does not make sense. An untold number of hours would be wasted by Microsoft to do this, and it does not even make sense from a business perspective. If some other company wishes to develop such software for operating systems such as Solaris or Linux, they should do it with their own money. Microsoft already supports Windows and the Apple.

Overall, I strongly support the settlement and wish to move on to solving user problems.

Thank you.

Rajen J. Shah